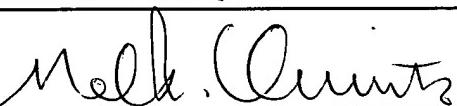


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE		DATE: January 6, 2005
TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US) CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371		U.S. PPLN. NO. (if known): 10/519672
INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.: PCT/JP03/08698	INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE: July 9, 2003	PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED: July 9, 2002
TITLE OF INVENTION: PIPE COUPLING		
APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US: Ryo MATSUHASHI, Kazuhiro SUETSUGU, Hideyuki MIYAGAWA, Toshio KITA, Kyota SOGABE, Kazuhiro YOSHIKAWA, Akihiro MORIMOTO, Jyunji SATO, Kunihiko DAIDO, Yoshinori SHIMOMURA and Takayasu NAKAHAMA		
Applicant hereby submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:		
<p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is a FIRST submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>2. <input type="checkbox"/> This is a SECOND or SUBSEQUENT submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.</p> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 USC 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the time limit set in 35 USC 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).</p> <p>4. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.</p> <p>5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> has been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US) </p> <p>6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).</p> <p>7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <input type="checkbox"/> are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau). b. <input type="checkbox"/> have been transmitted by the International Bureau. c. <input type="checkbox"/> have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired. d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> have not been made and will not be made. </p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).</p>		
ITEMS 11. TO 16. BELOW CONCERN OTHER DOCUMENT(S) OR INFORMATION INCLUDED:		
<p>11. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98 with PTO-1449 and International Search Report.</p> <p>12. <input type="checkbox"/> a. An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> b. ASSIGNEE(s) NAME(s) AND ADDRESS <u>FUJIKIN INCORPORATED, Osaka-shi, Japan</u> Please publish the assignee data with the application.</p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> A FIRST preliminary amendment. <input type="checkbox"/> A SECOND or SUBSEQUENT preliminary amendment</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> A substitute specification.</p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.</p> <p>16. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other items or information: <u>1 Sheet of Drawings.</u></p>		

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known)	107519672	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.	PCT/JP03/08698	DATE:	January 6, 2005								
17. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The following fees are submitted:				CALCULATIONS	PTO USE ONLY								
Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5): Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO: \$300.00				\$ 300.00									
Search Fee \$500.00				\$ 500.00									
Examination Fee \$200.00				\$ 200.00									
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$1000.00									
<p>— Additional fee for specification and drawings filed in paper over 100 sheets (excluding sequence listing or computer program listing filed in an electronic medium). the fee is \$250.00 for each additional 50 sheets of paper or fraction thereof.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Total Sheets</th> <th>Extra sheets</th> <th>Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)</th> <th>RATE</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>8 - 100 =</td> <td>/ 50 =</td> <td></td> <td>x \$250.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>				Total Sheets	Extra sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE	8 - 100 =	/ 50 =		x \$250.00		
Total Sheets	Extra sheets	Number of each additional 50 or fraction thereof (round up to a whole number)	RATE										
8 - 100 =	/ 50 =		x \$250.00										
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than <u>20</u> xx 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 130.00									
CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE										
TOTAL	2 - 20 =		X \$ 50.00										
INDEPENDENT	1 - 3 =		X \$ 200.00										
Multiple dependent claims(s) (if applicable)			+ \$360.00										
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$1130.00									
Reduction by 1/2 for filing by small entity, if applicable. (Note 37 CFR 1.9, 1.27, 1.28).													
SUBTOTAL =				\$1130.00									
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than <u>20</u> 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)). +													
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$1130.00									
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +													
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$1130.00									
				Amount to be: refunded _____ charged _____	\$ _____ \$ _____								

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known) 10/519672	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. PCT/JP03/08698	DATE: January 6, 2005
<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check in the amount of \$1130.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed. (\$300.00 for basic fee, \$500.00 for search fee, \$300.00 for examination fee and \$130.00 for the late declaration.) (This paper is filed in triplicate)</p> <p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Please charge my Deposit Account No. 01-2340 in the amount of \$____ to cover the above fees. (A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.)</p> <p>c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.</p> <p>NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed to request that the application be restored to pending status.</p>		

Send All Correspondence To: Armstrong, Kratz, Quintos, Hanson & Brooks, LLP Suite 1000, 1725 K Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20006 Tel: (202) 659-2930 Fax: (202) 887-0357	 23850 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE
Typed or Printed Name Mel R. Quintos	Reg. No. 31,898
Signature 	Date: January 6, 2005

MRQ:jaz